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## **EPA Releases First Round of Toxicity Testing Results for Eight Oil Dispersants**

**WASHINGTON** —The US Environmental Protection Agency today released results from the first round of its own independent, peer-reviewed toxicity testing on eight oil dispersants. EPA undertook its own testing to ensure that decisions about ongoing dispersant use in the Gulf of Mexico are grounded in the soundest available science.

"After calling on BP to find less toxic alternatives and significantly reduce dispersant use, EPA scientists have performed independent, peer-reviewed tests to determine the potential impacts of various dispersants," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "We want to ensure that every tool is available to mitigate the impact of the BP spill and protect our fragile wetlands. But we are also directing BP to use dispersants responsibly and in as limited an amount as possible."

EPA continues to carefully monitor BP's use of dispersant in the Gulf. While dispersant is generally less toxic than oil and it can prevent some oil from impacting sensitive areas along the Gulf Coast. However, EPA believes BP should use as little dispersant as possible and, on May 26, EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard directed BP to reduce dispersant usage by 75 percent from peak usage. To date, BP has reduced dispersant use 68 percent from that peak, and EPA will continue to urge BP to reduce the volumes used.

In addition to directing BP to ramp down dispersant use, on May 20th EPA had directed BP to analyze potential alternative dispersants for toxicity and effectiveness. BP reported to EPA that they were unable to find a dispersant that is less toxic than Corexit 9500, the product currently in use. Following that, EPA began its own scientific research into eight dispersant products on the National Contingency Plan Product Schedule (NCP-PS). Those dispersant products are: Dispersit SPC 1000, Nokomis 3-F4, Nokomis 3-AA, ZI-400, Saf-Ron Gold, Sea Brat #4, Corexit EC9500 A (formerly Corexit 9500) and JD 2000. Today's reported results represent the first stage of that effort.

EPA tested these eight products for endocrine disrupting activity, toxicity to living cells and for potential impacts on small fish and mysid shrimp. The testing found:

- Six of the eight products – including the product currently in use – shows no signs of acting as endocrine disruptors and two dispersants showed very limited potential to function as endocrine disruptors in one screening test.
- Toxicity to living cells screening and toxicity to small fish and mysid shrimp tests of the dispersant products alone – not mixed with oil or seawater –showed that while all eight products had roughly the same effects, one of them, JD 2000 was generally less toxic.

While this is important information to have, additional science is required before EPA will make a final decision on whether to switch to an alternative dispersant. The next phase of EPA's research will look at the short-term acute toxicity of multiple concentrations of Louisiana sweet crude oil alone and combinations of sweet crude oil with each of the dispersants for each of the test species.

To view the first round of test results please visit: [ [HYPERLINK](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/dispersants)  
"http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/dispersants" ]